

The Sun.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 1888.

The Only Sovereign.

Mayor HIRWIR is entirely consistent in not displaying our own or the German flag at half mast on the City Hall in recognition of the death of Kaiser FREDERICK.

This republic stands altogether aloof from the family of monarchies. It has nothing in common with them, and it bears no kinship to them. According to our republican theory, maintained during a century strewed with the fragments of shattered thrones and crowns, the only sovereign deserving of our reverence and entitled to our recognition is the sovereign people. Hereditary monarchs, claiming authority by divine right and under a feudal system which we have destroyed root and branch, may represent to us foreign peoples for diplomatic intercourse, but, in essence, by the American theory that sovereignty is in the people alone, they are merely individuals who rule contrary to the inalienable rights of those in subjection to them.

As Mayor HIRWIR very truly says, we have nothing to do with kings and kaisers as such, and we utterly repudiate their claims to the titles and their assumption of sovereign power. We do not believe that supreme authority is in and over the State can be handed down from father to son without trampling on the rights of the people, in no wise consonant to their will; and the individualism of a monarch like FREDERICK, deeply as it stirrs our hearts and provokes our admiration, cannot lessen our hatred of the system of which he was so illustrious a representative.

It is necessary that this distinction should always be kept before the people, so that, whatsoever their nationality, they may never forget that here the only sovereignty recognized, honored, and obeyed is the sovereignty of the people, and Mayor HIRWIR has done the republic good service by so sedulously and consistently enforcing the truth.

Peace to the ashes of FREDERICK, the brave soldier and patient sufferer, but down with kings and kaisers, and hell to the Sovereign People!

We Could Have Free Trade Within Twenty Years.

Before things go any further, we will correct one of the most materially erroneous statements of the year 1888, notwithstanding it was made by that gallant of Kentuckians, the Hon. HENRY WATTERSON. It is found in the speech General WATTERSON delivered after he had returned from St. Louis to Louisville:

"My object, you perceive, is a revenue tariff, but, in the nature of the case, we are bound to go slow. Rome was not built in a day. The protective system cannot be got rid of for years to come."

Probably even the free traders have not stopped to think in how surprisingly short a time not only the protective system could be got rid of, but nearly the entire Custom House, if they had the settlement of the question. Once overcome the protectionist opposition with which they are now confronted, and the possibilities of the situation would be enough fairly to paralyze the Star-Eagles with their contemplation.

The whole national debt, which twenty years ago was nearly three thousand millions of dollars, is now slightly under one thousand millions. This will certainly be paid off within twenty years, and possibly in ten years. The present annual charges upon the United States Treasury are \$35,000,000, of which pensions, interest, and the sinking fund take \$170,000,000, while the remaining \$145,000,000 meets the regular expenses of the Government.

The internal revenue now provides \$19,000,000. That would leave only \$20,000,000 necessary to be raised from other sources, and with the addition of a few other items, such as the proposed tax on lardine, like that already levied on oleomargarine, or a larger tax on beer to correspond to the present tax on whiskey, the excise would easily meet the entire demand for Government expenses. This, of course, would end the further continuance of protection, though a duty on tobacco, wines, and spirits would still have to be levied equal to the excise on that class of articles, or else the excise itself would presently cease to be available. The money raised by this duty would suffice to meet the remaining charge for pensions, which by the end of twenty years would naturally be reduced to a comparatively small figure; or if anything more should be necessary for the remaining pensioners, a small duty on tea and coffee would amply cover the case.

Free trade in less than twenty years! Do its apostles think that their imagination can stand it? Did President CLEVELAND realize with what amazing rapidity the policy recommended in his message would hurry this country into a system of free trade, free even than the free trade of England? Yet that is where the policy which would retain the internal revenue and reduce the tariff, would inevitably bring us. And it is where the principles of the leading tariff smashes, in spite of protests to the contrary, would take us within twenty years if the restraining hand of protection, that is still held out by Democrats and Republicans both, should be overpowered or withdrawn.

When we think of the depth to which circumstances unmistakable demonstrate that the Hon. ROGER Q. MILLIS would have gone in his first rip to the tariff, had he not been hampered by the necessities of politics, we shudder at the escape of American industries; but we are thankful all the same.

To a Mississippian.

We are indebted to a highly esteemed citizen of the State of Mississippi for the subjoined communication, which we hasten to publish conspicuously:

"Dear Sir, I send you a renewal subscription. You publish a very good paper."

"Politically, or on natural taxation, we are at the antipodes of each other. You would give a man free whiskey and tobacco and bush-hoisted salts and snuff. You would cheapen the articles that are the handmaids of vice and keep dead those that give even the commonest comforts. By your teachings you encourage a species of life which is abominable and abominable than any misery beneath the sun."

"But, dear sir, our men have twice lost when defeat completes disaster; the handwriting is on the wall, and I hope you live to see the day when the last vestige of tariff taxation shall be swept from our statute books and free-trade with all the blessings occupy instead. With a few days for your personal success and with strong backs and great desire for the welfare of your taxation theories, you are to be congratulated. Your name is well known to me. W. WATERS."

"Kosciusko, Miss., June 6, 1888."

There is one point in Mr. WATERS's interesting letter which we dare to controvert. He says that we would give man free whiskey and tobacco, and that is a mistake. It is true we would take off the Federal tax upon whiskey and tobacco, but that would by no means free those articles from taxation. The States, the townships, the local licensing authorities would tax them, and in some cases very heavily we dare say. All that we would do with them would be to wipe out that system

of taxation which was established at the beginning of the civil war, and which remains its most conspicuous relic. The Federal Government should have nothing to do with excise taxes; they should be left to the States, and there is no doubt that they would bear very heavily upon whiskey, whatever they might do with tobacco.

As for the question of free trade and protection, we are willing to leave that to be settled by the judgment of the country. For our part we are well satisfied with the system under which this nation has grown so great and powerful, notwithstanding the bloodiest and bloodiest civil war known in human history, and the almost inconceivable pecuniary sacrifices and burdens it entailed; and we are especially satisfied to find that, although Mr. WEATHERLY differs so greatly from our views of that subject, we still remain good friends, and he appreciates the great advantage of being a subscriber for THE SUN, which shines for all. We shake hands with you, brother WEATHERLY, with all our heart; and if you come our way, you will find the door open and a warm welcome.

At the same time, the crushing defeat of the MILLS bill is the best service that can be rendered to the Democracy at present. The Figures—Make Your Own Combinations.

The States which may reasonably be expected to choose Republican electors in November, and to be unaffected by any issue made prominent during the canvass of the next four months, are set down in the table here presented:

REPUBLICAN STATES	ELECTORAL VOTES
California.....	32
Illinois.....	22
Iowa.....	13
Maine.....	6
Massachusetts.....	14
Minnesota.....	7
Nebraska.....	5
New Hampshire.....	4
Pennsylvania.....	33
Rhode Island.....	3
Vermont.....	4
Wisconsin.....	11
Total.....	111

The talk of yanking Minnesota from its place in this solid Republican column is of the rainbow variety. The same remark applies to Democratic prospects in Massachusetts. As far as anything can be safe and sure in politics, it is safe to assume that the electoral votes of these eighteen Northern States will be cast for the Republican ticket, no matter what names are put upon that ticket at this week.

There are sixteen States in which the probability of Democratic majorities is not less strong. They are all in the South or along the border:

DEMOCRATIC STATES	ELECTORAL VOTES
Alabama.....	10
Arkansas.....	7
Delaware.....	3
Georgia.....	12
Kentucky.....	13
Louisiana.....	8
Maryland.....	8
Mississippi.....	10
North Carolina.....	11
Tennessee.....	12
Texas.....	13
West Virginia.....	6
Total.....	153

Some of these States have developed a strong protectionist sentiment, accompanied by more or less direct hostility to the recent policy of certain Democratic leaders. This has notably been the case in Alabama, Louisiana, and West Virginia. Recent indications, and especially those since the St. Louis Convention, do not justify the belief that Republican hopes of profiting by this Southern protectionist sentiment are any more substantial than Democratic visions of a break in the Republican Northwest.

The remaining four States are those in which the battle must be fought:

DEMOCRATIC STATES	ELECTORAL VOTES
Connecticut.....	6
New Jersey.....	15
New York.....	36
Total.....	57

The whole number of electoral votes is 401, and 261 votes are necessary to elect.

Of the 66 votes belonging to the States here classed as doubtful the Republicans absolutely need 27 and the Democrats 45.

The Republicans carry New York the game is up for the Democrats, no matter if they should win California through THOMAS MAXWELL's popularity on the Pacific coast, and save New Jersey, Connecticut, and Indiana for CLEVELAND.

If they carry New York they will also carry either New Jersey or Connecticut, if not both. In the twenty-one Presidential elections since the beginning of the present century New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut have all stood together nine times, New York and New Jersey against Connecticut five times, and New York and Connecticut against New Jersey five times. In one election, that of 1828, the vote of New York was divided. In only a single Presidential year since have all stood together nine times, New York and New Jersey against Connecticut five times, and New York and Connecticut against New Jersey five times. In one election, that of 1828, the vote of New York was divided.

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The explanation of this curious and important fact on the surface. While the political sentiment in both New York and Connecticut approaches very near to the New York average, such variation as there is extends in one direction in New Jersey, and in the opposite direction in Connecticut. Not only geographically but also politically, New York stands between New Jersey and Connecticut; and whichever way opinion turns in New York, it is sure to find a sympathetic movement either on the one side or the other. New York Republican with both New Jersey and Connecticut Democratic is an impossible conception; and so is New York Democratic with both Connecticut and New Jersey Republican.

In making combinations therefore, from the figures presented above, our mathematical friends must bear in mind the very important fact that the 36 votes of New Jersey or the 45 votes of Connecticut, and probably both. Without these votes neither the R. publican party nor the Democracy will elect its candidates.

The Camp at Ron Hook.

The Peekskill camp of instruction for the National Guard of New York is once more in operation, the Fourth with Regiment of Brooklyn receiving this year the honor of opening it. It will continue weekly tours for each detail of troops uninterrupted from June 16 to Aug. 11, which is a longer period than has ever before been undertaken since its establishment. This will insure the presence of each organization of the National Guard at the camp every other year. When this prolonged period of drill and instruction, provided for installations not exceeding a thousand men each week, is compared with the single day in a year or the two or three days formerly devoted to a great mass of troops, the advance in the permanence and efficiency of the camp is evident.

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